

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
) CR. NO. 1:07-cr-60-WKW
)
JAMES ALLAN GIBSON)

ORDER

This case is before the court on Defendant James Allan Gibson's Unopposed Motions to Continue Trial (Docs. # 22 & 24). The criminal case is currently set for trial during the August 6, 2007, trial term. For the reasons that follow, the court finds that the trial of the defendant should be continued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h).

While the grant of a continuance is left to the sound discretion of the trial judge, *United States v. Stitzer*, 785 F.2d 1506, 1516 (11th Cir. 1986), the Court is limited by the requirements of the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161. The Act provides in part:

In any case in which a plea of not guilty is entered, the trial of a defendant charged in an information or indictment with the commission of an offense shall commence within seventy days from the filing date (and making public) of the information or indictment, or from the date the defendant has appeared before a judicial officer of the court in which such charge is pending, whichever date last occurs.

18 U.S.C. § 3161(c)(1). However, the Act excludes from the 70 day period any continuance based on "findings that the ends of justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial." § 3161(h)(8)(A).

The court finds that the ends of justice served by continuing this trial outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial. In support of the defendant's motion to continue, Mr. Gibson represents that he will need additional time to enter into a plea negotiation with the Government. Moreover, the Government is not opposed to a continuance.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the defendant's Motion to Continue Trial (Doc. # 24) is GRANTED. The trial in this matter is continued from **August 6, 2007**, to the criminal term of court beginning on **November 5, 2007**. It is further ORDERED that the defendant's Motion to Continue Trial (Doc. # 22) is MOOT.

DONE this 19th day of July, 2007.

/s/ W. Keith Watkins
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE